

REMARKS

This application has been reviewed in light of the Office Action dated October 23, 2003. In response, the independent claims (Claims 1, 14, and 27), as well as several of the dependent claims, have been amended, and new Claims 118-120 have been added. Support for these new claims may be found in the Specification on page 22, line 15 to page 23, line 1, as well as in figure 13. Favorable consideration of the allowability of the claims is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action all of the claims were rejected either as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 4,642,679 (*Nagano*) or as being obvious in view of *Nagano* combined with U.S. Patent No. 5,532,825 (*Lim et al.*) or U.S. Patent No. 5,450,215 (*Iwama*).

Amended Claim 1 of the present invention includes a light source that emits a first light, a second light, and a third light, all of different wavelengths. The apparatus also includes a sensing unit which, in response to a trigger signal for triggering the operation of sensing one line of an image, outputs during a first period, a signal of one line of the image illuminated by the emitted light. In the apparatus, the first, second, and the third lights, in that order, are continuously turned on and off during the first period. Additionally, the first, second, and third lights, in that order, are continuously turned on and off in a second period during which a trigger signal is not generated over a length of time that is greater than the first period.

Unlike the present invention, *Nagano* does not disclose that the first, second, and third lights are continuously turned on and off during a non-sensing interval which occurs between the reading of the successive lines of an image, nor does it disclose

that the non-sensing second trigger period is of longer duration than the first trigger period.

Additionally, applicants believe that the deletion of the control unit and the signal generator from the image sensing apparatus itself, does not effect the patentability of Claim 1, because the present invention still outputs a signal of one line of the image illuminated with the emitted light, during a first period where the first, second, and third lights are continuously turned on and off in response to a trigger signal. Furthermore, Claim 1 still requires that the second period be longer than the first period, and that during this longer period, where no trigger signal is generated, the first, second, and third lights are continuously turned on and off.

The Examiner noted in the Office Action that the non-sensing image period G1, G3, R1, and B1 of *Nagano* are longer than the image sensing periods G2, R2, and B2. Applicants disagree and read *Nagano* as disclosing that during the periods R2 and B2, the read red data and read green data are processed and converted into digital signals, and therefore, no image reading operation is carried out during this period. Additionally, it appears in *Nagano*, that the periods R1 and B1 which corresponding to the unsuitable regions Sd and Sh, are the only periods during which no image sensing operation is performed. As a result, the comparison of the length of the periods G1, G3, R1, and B1 to the length of the periods G2, R2, and B2, is irrelevant for comparison purposes, when comparing the first and second trigger periods of the present invention.

Furthermore, neither of the two non-sensing periods (i.e., the after glow storing and the shading reference setting) of *Nagano* occur between the line-by-line reading operations, but in fact occur during the main cycle prior to the next realignment with the reading line.

For at least these reasons, Applicants believe that independent Claim 1 and all the claims that depend therefrom, are patentably distinct over the cited prior art.

Independent Claims 14 and 27 are method and computer memory medium claims respectively corresponding to apparatus Claim 1, and are believed to be patentable for at least the same reasons as discussed above in connection with Claim 1.

A review of the other art of record has failed to reveal anything which, in Applicants' opinion, would remedy the deficiencies of the art discussed above, as references against the independent claims herein.

The other claims in this application are each dependent from one or another of the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed to be patentable for the same reasons. Since each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, individual consideration or reconsideration, as the case may be, of the patentability of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request favorable reconsideration and early passage to issue of the present application.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York Office
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Respectfully submitted,


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